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LaToya M. Lacey, CPA, CFE

(BUS '01)

Residence | Stamford, Conn.

Occupation | Director of Global Audit & Risk at Diageo, a premium drinks business with brands that span spirits, beer and wine. In this role, I am responsible for conducting and leading advisory reviews and internal audits, including assessment of overall risk management activities. I also lead the anti-fraud agenda within the Global Audit & Risk group at Diageo.

Education | A family friend suggested I consider a degree in accounting since math was my favorite subject. I took an accounting course during my senior year at Morgan Park High School and enjoyed it. I decided to pursue my degree at DePaul because of its excellent accounting program and because I was really impressed with the school after attending the open house.

Vital stats | During my time at DePaul, I worked in the law school's admissions office and held two internships at Arthur Andersen and one at Abbott Laboratories. After graduation, I accepted a position at Abbott in their Financial Professional Development Program and subsequently worked in their U.S. Customs Compliance group. I left Abbott to join the Internal Audit department at Altria and went to Kraft Foods as a result of the spinoff. At Kraft, I worked in internal audit, finance training and special investigations. I have an 18-year-old son who plans to obtain a pharmaceutical sciences degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

What I like best about my job | Over the past two years, no two assignments have been the same. I really enjoy the constant changes and challenges, and the opportunities I have to change the way we work. I also enjoy traveling all over the world and working with people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

My DePaul experience | I was a full-time student, a student officer and mentor in STARS (Students Together Are Reaching Success, a DePaul support program for first-year students). I also worked part time while being a single mom, and I graduated with honors. My experience at DePaul taught me the importance of time management and that with determination and hard work, I can overcome any obstacle. That has helped me tremendously with various challenges I have experienced both personally and professionally.



Lacey's advice for new alumni:

“Embrace and overcome challenges, rather than run from them, and learn from mistakes. These experiences will prepare you for a bright future.”

“Find what truly motivates you and pursue that in your career. This will allow you to have the energy to always give your best and drive for more.”

“Expand your horizons as much as possible. When you have the opportunity to work in another part of the world, learn about the economy, culture and history.”

“Balance is important, so don't forget to have fun and enjoy time with those closest to you.”